

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIMA 02023 130056Z

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4260

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 2023

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS TO SECRETARY FROM ASST. SECRETARY  
ROGERS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJ: ROGERS' MEETING WITH PRESIDENT PINOCHET

1. I CALLED ON PRESIDENT PINOCHET AT 0900 MARCH 12  
ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR POPPER AND DCM THOMPSON. FOREIGN  
MINISTER CARVAJAL WAS PRESENT.

2. CARVAJAL REVIEWED OUR DISCUSSIONS OF YOUR VISIT. (SEPTTEL)  
3. I SAID WE ASSUMED YOU WOULD BE IN SANTIAGO FOR TWENTY-  
FOUR HOURS OR LESS. YOU WOULD BE HONORED TO SPEAK TO THE  
PRESIDENT AND MEET WITH THE FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC MINISTERS.  
THESE MEETINGS SHOULD BE SMALL IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. LARGE  
PROTOCOL EVENTS ARE TO BE AVOIDED. I MENTIONED YOUR INTER-  
EST IN MEETING A FEW PEOPLE OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT, AND TO  
HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE SOMETHING OF CHILE AND TO  
OBTAIN SOME DIRECT SENSE OF ITS CULTURE AND WAY OF LIFE.  
(I HAD EARLIER CITED CARDINAL SILVA AND FORMER PRESIDENT  
FREI AS EXAMPLES OF LEADING CHILEANS YOU MIGHT WANT TO  
TALK TO. HE ASSURED ME THERE WOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY IN  
YOUR DOING SO.)

4. PRESIDENT PINOCHET AGREED, HE ALSO URGED THAT YOU BE  
EXPOSED TO THE ECONOMIC PROBLEM. AND HE EXPRESSED HIS  
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LIMA 02023 130056Z

APPRECIATION FOR OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN THE PAST. THEN

TURNING TO ARMS, HE SAID JOKINGLY THAT HE WOULD TRY NOT TO MENTION THE "OTHER PROBLEM". BUT IT IS SERIOUS. PERU TALKS ABOUT REDUCING ARMS PURCHASES BUT IT CONTINUES TO ACQUIRE SOVIET TANKS, MISSILES AND OTHER EQUIPMENT IN LARGE AMOUNTS. HE SAID THAT CHILE DOES NOT HAVE ONE-TENTH THE ARMS PERU HAS, BUT IT WILL NEVERTHELESS MANAGE AS BEST IT CAN.

5. THE PRESIDENT SAID CHILE IS LOCKED IN A STRUGGLE WITH COMMUNISM. CHILE KNOWS COMMUNISM FIRST HAND, FROM THREE YEARS OF THE UP GOVERNMENT. THIS WAS A BITTER PERIOD. THE ONE SURE WAY TO DEFEAT COMMUNISM IS TO GENERATE SOLID ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. THE GOC IS MAKING A REAL EFFORT TO PROVIDE HOUSING. AT THE SAME TIME THE SOVIETS ARE PUNISHING CHILE FOR THE SEPTEMBER 1973 OVERTHROW OF ALLENDE.

6. PINOCHET SAID HE HAD INVESTIGATED CAREFULLY. THERE ARE NO HUMAN RIGHTS EXCESSES NOW. OF COURSE, THERE ARE ARRESTS. BUT THE GOVERNMENT IS STUDYING A NEW LAW WHICH WILL PERMIT THESE CASES TO BE HANDLED BY THE ORDINARY CIVIL JUDICIARY SYSTEM.

7. THE PRESIDENT REASSURED ME THAT YOU WOULD BE MOST WELCOME IN CHILE. HIS ONLY REGRET IS THAT 24 HOURS WILL BE VERY SHORT. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE VISIT START WITH A PRESIDENTIAL CALL ON HIM, FOLLOWED IMMEDIATELY BY WORKING SESSIONS WITH THE FOREIGN AND FINANCE MINISTERS. HE MEANS TO AVOID WASTING YOUR TIME AND TO COMPRESS OFFICIAL TALKS INTO ONE-HALF DAY, LEAVING ONE-HALF DAY FREE FOR OTHER MEETINGS, SIGHTSEEING, AND REALIZATION.  
DEAN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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